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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,961	05/16/2005	Masahiko Kadokura	10873.1601USWO	1695
53148	7590	02/18/2009	EXAMINER	
HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON P.C. P.O. BOX 2902-0902 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			CATTUNGAL, SANJAY	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER			
	3768			
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
02/18/2009	PAPER			

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/534,961	KADOKURA, MASAHIKO	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	SANJAY CATTUNGAL	3768	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2009.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 May 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/12/2009</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 12/29/08, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-6 under 102 and 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,709,397 to Taylor and U. S. Patent No. 6,840,938 to Morley et al.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,709,397 to Taylor in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,840,938 to Morley et al.

4. Regarding Claims 1 and 6, Taylor teaches an ultrasonic probe, comprising an inserting portion to be inserted into a body cavity (Fig. 2); and a grip portion held by an operator outside of the body cavity (Fig. 2), wherein the inserting portion includes a transducer unit for transmitting and receiving an ultrasonic wave (Fig. 8 elements 31-33), a rotation axis provided in the transducer unit, and a swing mechanism for swinging the transducer unit around the rotation axis as a center axis (Abstract and Fig. 8), and

the grip portion includes a motor for driving the swing mechanism (Fig. 2 element 2 and 5), the swing mechanism includes a shaft connected to the motor (Fig. 2 element 13), a first pulley provided at an end portion of the shaft different from an end portion connected to the motor (Fig. 2 element 8), a second pulley coaxially provided at the rotation axis (Fig. 2 element 9), and a belt connecting the first pulley and the second pulley, and rotational movement of the motor is transmitted to the transducer unit via the shaft, the first pulley, the belt, and the second pulley (Abstract, Figs. 1, 2 and 8).

5. Taylor does not expressly teach the use of a wire to engage the pulleys.
6. Morley teaches the use of cables to engage the pulleys (Fig. 4b).
7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Taylor with a setup to use cables to engage the pulley as taught by Morley, since the use of cables/wires/belts with pulleys is well known in the art as they are obvious variants of each other.
8. Regarding Claim 2, Morley teaches using pulley of the same diameter (Fig. b element 94).
9. Regarding Claims 3 and 4, Morley teaches using pulleys to change the direction of motion (fig. 4b)
10. Regarding Claim 5, Morley teaches use of a third pulley to change the direction in which the wire is moved perpendicularly (Fig. 4b).
11. Regarding Claim 6, Morley teaches a groove on the peripheral surface of the first pulley and the second pulley (Fig. 4b element 94).

***Conclusion***

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SANJAY CATTUNGAL whose telephone number is (571)272-1306. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 - 5:00 pm.
13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571)272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SPC

/Long V Le/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3768